

**Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism  
- GO SERV-**

**Citizen Corps and CERT Program Update  
Newsletter Number 3: May 2003**

**GO SERV-Sponsored Activities**

***GO SERV Summer Institute (Your response requested by COB Friday, May 3)***

In our April update we announced that GO SERV will conduct its Summer Institute, July 15-17, in Sacramento. GO SERV already offers this annual training for all of its many grantees. The purpose of this Institute is to provide training, technical assistance and guidance on new and ongoing grants, now to include Citizen Corps and CERT. This will be an excellent opportunity to bring together our new Citizen Corps and CERT grantees to dialogue about program planning and implementation, share program approaches, best practices and discuss issues related to grant management. We are inviting guest speakers from the American Red Cross, California OES and the new federal Department of Homeland Security and state Office of Homeland Security.

The costs for attendance will be handled in this manner: 1) GO SERV will directly cover the participation costs of 1 person from each grantee; 2) a second (or third) person may be funded by your 2002 grants and/or your 2003 grant yet to be determined. More on the financing to come under separate cover.

Ideally, we encourage two participants per grantee to attend the Institute. Specific costs will be for travel, lodging and meals. There are no registration or material fees for the Institute. The cost for one person is estimated at \$400.

We appreciate the fiscal constraints and extensive workload that our partners and grantees face. Consequently, prior to making a final decision to go forward with the specific scope of this event, we would appreciate your thoughts and suggestions on the following: *(We need this information ASAP!)*

1. Would you or your staff be interested in this event?
2. How many would attend?
3. What suggestions do you have for workshop topics?
4. Should this event be 2 or 3 days long?

**Please give us your feedback via phone, e-mail or fax by COB Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

We need to make certain commitments for venues by then. Please contact Joanne Burke on the GO SERV staff. (Contact numbers at the end of this newsletter). Thank you!

### ***CERT Train the Trainer T-T-T Course in Roseville***

GO SERV, in collaboration with the Placer County Office of Emergency Services (OES) and City of Roseville will host a CERT T-T-T training at the Roseville Fire Department's Training Institute in Roseville, May 7-9th. Seven counties will participate in this course. They include Amador, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento and Yolo counties. The instructors are fire fighters from the Los Angeles City Fire Department. The course will follow the FEMA/EMI schedule – which is designed to assist participants who will start a CERT program and offer the course.

This is the first in a series of CERT T-T-T courses that GO SERV will sponsor during this year. The courses will train instructor teams to train other instructors and/or offer the CERT course.

We are finalizing the partners, locations and dates for the remaining courses and will distributed the schedule shortly. Course information will also be available on GO SERV's Citizen Corps web site. If you are interested in hosting a course or for additional course information, please contact Joanne Burke.

### ***SERV California 2003, The Governor's Service, Volunteerism and Mentoring Conference***

Just a reminder that the first annual Governor's Conference on Service, Volunteerism and Mentoring, will be October 6-9 in Los Angeles. The conference agenda will include sessions and a "mini plenary track" on "Securing the Homeland with Citizen Engagement". Be sure to check [www.goserve.ca/gov/events/conference.asp](http://www.goserve.ca/gov/events/conference.asp) for further conference information.

### **Grantee Update**

#### ***Grantee Count***

As of March 21, we are pleased to say that we have commitments with all the Operational Areas and Tribal Nations to serve as Citizen Corps and CERT grant administrators. In the majority of cases, agencies/organizations with countywide jurisdictions will serve as the grantee, though a few are with city agencies.

Four Citizen Corps Council models are emerging: (1) Existing Operational Area disaster councils are expanded to serve as Citizen Corps Councils; (2) Existing Red Cross disaster councils are expanded to serve as county's Citizen Corps Council; (3) The entities above form new committee(s) to coordinate the Citizen Corps and CERT programs; or, (4) Cities form a new group to serve as the Citizen Corps Council at the city level.

Among the CERT programs supported by GO SERV, two CERT models are taking shape: (1) CERT will be administered by one agency, usually a fire department; or, (2) CERT will be administered by a non-fire department lead agency (i.e., sheriff's office, Red Cross) working with a variety of agencies including a fire department.

### ***First Quarter Operational Area Grantee Report***

The last monthly update included a copy of the Quarterly Report. No quarterly reports are due for this period. The first quarterly report, covering the period of your program's inception up to June 30 will be due July 15<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Grant Approval and Billing Process***

We understand many of you are still waiting for the paperwork that confirms that your GO SERV Citizen Corps grant has been "approved." Most of you do not have to wait for this approval before starting to incur allowable grant expenses. Please remember that you can bill back to December 5, 2002 - the start date of the GO SERV Citizen Corps grant program. Keep records of all your expenditures. As soon as you receive word that your grant has been approved you can submit an invoice to GO SERV. Please contact us if you have any questions.

### **FY 03 Citizen Corps/CERT Funding and Grant Information**

Funding appropriations in the amount of \$20 million nationally have been approved for FY03, for CERT only. Guidance is still needed from FEMA as to whether these funds can be used for Citizen Corps and other volunteer activities. Funding levels for California for FY '03 will likely be similar to FY 02—about \$1.6 million to CA on a population-based formula. Funds should be available about the June/July timeframe. As soon as we receive the FEMA/DHS guidance to the states we will let you know the details of the 2003 cycle.

Additionally, FEMA has verbally confirmed that a portion of discretionary funds under the President's FY '03 Wartime Supplemental Budget recently signed will be used for Citizen Corps activities—adding to the already approved 03 CERT funds. No news yet as to how much this will be; TBD...

Debate continues in Congress for the 2004 budget. The president's proposal for Citizen Corps is \$181 million nationally.

EMPG note: FEMA has released supplemental guidance on the use of EMPG funds that allows for an optional use towards Citizen Corps/CERT related activities. For any further clarification on this process please contact CA OES staff, where the program is administered for the state—also feel free to contact us here as well.

We are now "gearing up" for the 2003 cycle, including updates to our guidance for this new round of funding that we will receive shortly. This will be a topic at our summer institute, but any and all thoughts from you regarding: what is working well, what we should consider updating, and new ideas to address in this evolving program are very welcome. Thanks in Advance for your input and continuing support of the state Citizen Corps/Emergency Volunteerism effort!

## **Other News**

### ***Citizen Corps Annual Report***

This national report is available on FEMA's web site. We encourage you to read the report, which contains a summary of CA's Citizen Corps Program. Great job everyone!

### **USA Freedom Corps April 2003 issue of "Network of Service"**

The monthly electronic newsletter for all public and private organizations that are interested in answering the President's Call to Service is available online at:

[http://www.usafreedomcorp.gov/for\\_organizations/enewsletter/archive/index.asp](http://www.usafreedomcorp.gov/for_organizations/enewsletter/archive/index.asp)

### ***FLASH Program***

Governor Davis and First Lady Sharon Davis have recently announced the launch of FLASH: A California Partnership for Safety and Preparedness. FLASH is an alliance of public and private partnerships that will focus on teaching safety and preparedness to California. FLASH has created a unique partnership of relevant state and federal agencies and private partners including FEMA, the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES), the California Office of Homeland Security and GO SERV.

FLASH will be launched in October 2003, with a weeklong program for California's kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students. During the week youths will be taught age-appropriate safety and preparedness lessons that cover emergency situations and natural and man-made disasters. At the end of the week students will take home a family plan so the entire family can improve its preparedness and resilience. For further details on FLASH, please see GO SERV's website.

### ***Medical Reserve Corps Update***

Although the guidance from Health and Human Services/Office of the Surgeon General has not yet been released for the 2003 cycle, we are "gearing up" for the next applications for demonstration grants. As you may recall, \$50,000 grants were awarded around the nation, 3 in California, as start-up activities for this effort. With the help of the Emergency Medical Services Authority, we are advocating California's applications this year—as we did last—as a "group." In this manner all CA MRC applications will hopefully receive a more comprehensive viewing and consideration at the federal level. If you need any direct information on the MRC process, please contact our state partners at EMSA on this effort—ask for Norma Shraeder, 916-322-4336, ext. 467.

### ***Tribal Nations Update***

Special "Kudos" this month to the Inter-Tribal Council of California. The ITCC held its first statewide Tribal Nations Citizen Corps Council meeting with its advisory leaders and began work on the infrastructure that will integrate Tribal Nation activity in preparedness throughout California in coordination with local governments. This effort is off to a great start—good job ITCC!!

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